

Issue NE-CW1503, released April 14 2003, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov, Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

GENERAL: For the week ending April 13, 2003, the wheat, alfalfa, and pastures benefitted from the improved moisture supplies but fieldwork was slowed due to wet soil conditions, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Subsoil moisture supplies continue to be rated mostly short to very short, unchanged from last fall. Planting of oats, sugar beets, alfalfa, and corn were underway. Producer activities also included fertilizer applications and livestock care.

This release is based on reports and data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. Current county specific comments plus current and historic PDF files of Weather and Crop reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm

WEATHER: Temperatures averaged above normals for the week and ranged from three degrees below normals to five degrees above normals. Precipitation was statewide and ranged from traces to over one inch in the east.

Field Crops Report: Wheat condition improved as a result of last week’s snow and rated 5 percent very

poor, 15 poor, 37 fair, 40 good, and 3 excellent. Plants have begun to joint in fields in the East, Southwest, and Southeast districts.

Oat seedings progressed to 47 percent complete but behind both last year at 57 and average at 49. Five percent had emerged.

Sugar beet planting progressed in the Panhandle and Southwest districts to nine percent complete. A year ago 25 percent had been planted.

Corn planting had made a start in many areas of the state with 1 percent seeded to date. This compares to 1 percent last year.

Alfalfa conditions rated 3 percent very poor, 13 poor, 44 fair, 38 good, and 2 excellent.

LIVESTOCK: Pasture and range condition rated 31 percent very poor, 31 poor, 25 fair, and 13 good. This is significantly below a year ago. Cattle and calves condition rated 1 percent very poor, 3 poor, 24 fair, 59 good, and 13 excellent. Calving progressed to 85 percent complete with calf losses mostly average to below average.

Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 13, 2003

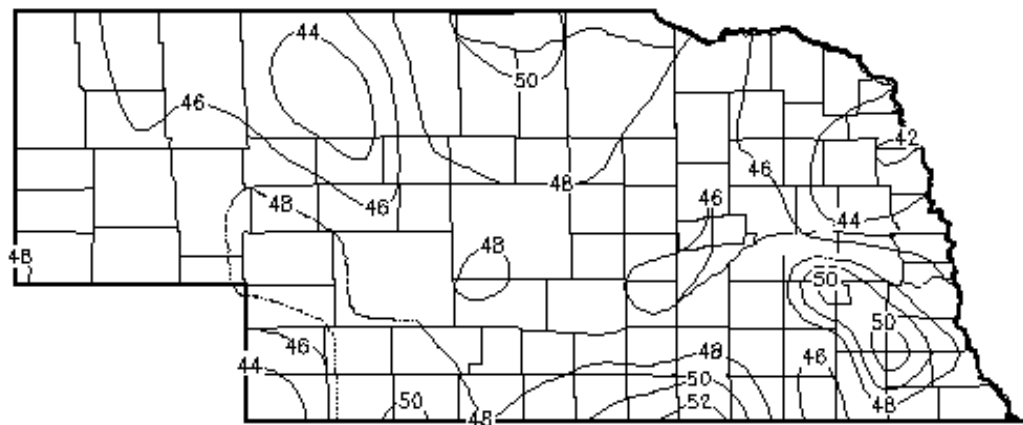
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
% Wheat Jointed	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	3	2	0	1	3
% Oats Planted	22	72	35	58	63	61	78	77	47	28	57	49
% Oats Emerged	6	0	2	2	7	9	4	23	5	0	14	15
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	4.8	1.9	2.1	1.0	2.5	2.7	2.4	4.0	2.8	5.6	6.1	3.9
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	0	23	5	6	4	26	19	20	11	19	32	14
- % Short	23	57	26	64	34	37	36	33	36	34	31	18
- % Adequate	76	20	69	30	61	37	45	47	53	45	37	56
- % Surplus	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	13
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	41	62	24	39	23	83	49	45	45	43	20	15
- % Short	49	33	53	53	53	17	47	45	44	42	49	28
- % Adequate	10	5	23	8	24	0	4	10	11	15	31	52
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

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P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, NE 68501

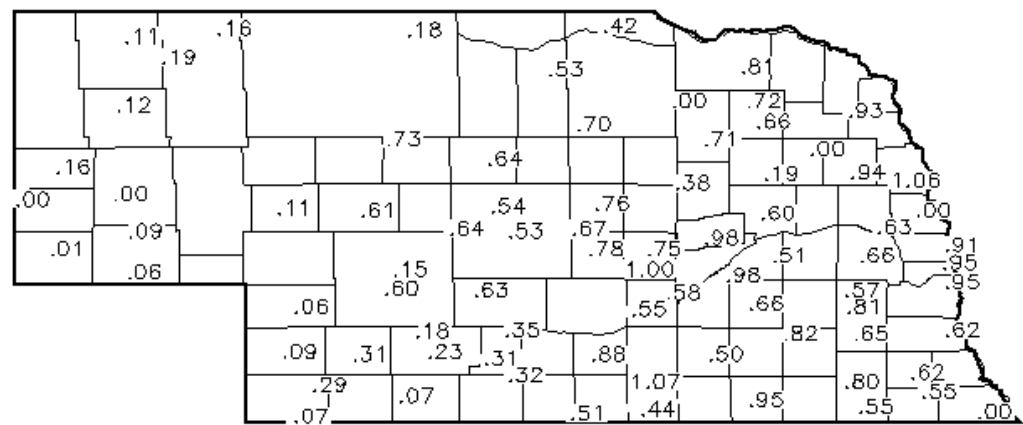
NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS (USPS 679-770; ISSN 0745-0117) is published weekly April-November and monthly December-March in Lincoln, Nebraska, and from other additional offices, by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), 100 Centennial Mall North, Room 298 Federal Building, Lincoln, NE 68508. Subscription is free to survey respondents upon request to NASS, P.O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501, or by calling (402) 437-5541 and available for \$20.00 per year to non-reporters. It is also available free by polling our FAX at (402) 437-5547 after 3:30 p.m. CT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS, P. O. Box 81069, Lincoln, NE 68501.

Seven Day Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 13, 2003



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 13, 2003

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.08	.51	.60	.67	.77	.23	.61	.65
Total since April 1	.38	.56	.69	1.32	1.14	.70	.86	.84
Normal since April 1	.72	.87	1.03	1.00	1.14	.77	.85	1.15
Total as % of normal	52%	65%	65%	132%	100%	91%	100%	73%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday April 13, 2003

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	82	14	48	4
	Scottsbluff	83	18	49	5
	Sidney	81	20	50	5
NC	Ainsworth	84	11	49	2
	Arthur	80	21	50	4
	O'Neill	83	11	49	1
NE	Concord	84	16	47	-1
	Elgin	83	21	49	1
	West Point	82	18	45	-4
C	Grand Island	84	22	48	0
	Lexington	84	17	51	2
	Ord	84	15	48	0
EC	Lincoln	83	21	49	-1
	Central City	85	19	48	-1
	Mead	84	21	48	-3
SW	Champion	83	15	48	1
	North Platte	82	16	50	3
	Curtis	86	17	51	4
SC	Arapahoe	82	14	47	1
	Minden	86	25	50	1
	Red Cloud	83	22	50	1
SE	Beatrice	83	21	49	-2
	Clay Center	84	22	48	-1
	Nemaha	84	24	52	0

Source: High Plains Climate Center.